

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 STR-08 TRSE-00

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-15 RSR-01 /116 W
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R 181730 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7589

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 2790

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: EEC, BE, UK

SUB: VISIT OF BRITISH MINISTER FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

1. BRITISH MINISTER FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS JOHN DAVIES VISITED BRUSSELS MAY 14-17 TO ATTEND EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND MEET WITH BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND GOVERNOR OF NATIONAL BANK. ACCORDING TO SOURCE IN BRITISH EMBASSY, DAVIES' PURPOSE IN BILATERAL MEETINGS WAS TO GET TO KNOW BELGIAN OFFICIALS AND EXPLORE METHODS OF BETTER ORGANIZING COORDINATION AMONG EC-9. LITTLE OF IMPORTANCE EMERGED, BUT TWO POINTS ON JOINT CURRENCY FLOAT AND ON US- EC RELATIONS ARE WORTH NOTING.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS CLAES, DAVIES SAID THAT UK WOULD LIKE TO " JOIN THE SNAKE" BUT THAT IF NOT
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DONE UNDER PROPER CONDITIONS UK PARTICIPATION WOULD BENEFIT NO ONE. BRITISH PRESS EVIDENTLY HAS INTERPRETED SIMILAR REMARK BY DAVIES AT PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 16 TO MEAN THAT HMG MIGHT TAKE LESS STRINGENT POSITION ON REQUIREMENTS FOR UK PARTICIPATION THAN THAT PRESENTED BY CHANCELLOR OF EXCHEQUER BARBER. SOURCE, HOWEVER, SAID THAT TENOR OF DAVIES' REMARKS TO CLAES MADE CLEAR THAT SOFTENING OF UK POSITION NOT INDICATED.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE RAISED WITH DAVIES QUESTION OF US- EC COOPERATION. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT MAJOR PROBLEM WAS " LEADING HORSE (I. E., FRANCE) TO WATER AND MAKING HIM DRINK."

STRAUSZ- HUPE

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BRUSSE02790
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730548/aaaajkzc.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <15-Aug-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980220
Subject: VISIT OF BRITISH MINISTER FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
TAGS: OVIP, BE, UK, EEC
To: BONN
COPENHAGEN
DUBLIN
EUR
LONDON
LUXEMBOURG
PARIS

ROME

SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005